

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, INC.

Report on 1995 Program Activities

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REPORT ON 1995 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

CONTENTS

Letter from the President

Report on 1995 Program Activities

I. 1995 Basic CGBD Facts 2

II. Goals and Program Focus 3

III. Working Group Activities 4

IV. Other Program Activities 6

V. Looking Ahead to 1996 8

Appendices

1995 CGBD Member Organizations 10

Officers 1995 Members of CGBD Board of Directors, Corporate 11

1995 Secretariat Staff 12

1995 Meetings of the CGBD Board of Directors 13

1995 CGBD Briefings and Working Group Meetings 14

Agendas, notes and any distributed supporting materials are available upon request.

Balance Sheet and Statement of Fund Activity, FY1995 16

These numbers, at this printing, are unaudited. Financial statements, together with the auditors report, are in the process of being completed by Conroy, Smith & Co.

I. 1995 Basic CGBD Facts

The Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, Inc. (CGBD) was established in August of 1987. The Internal Revenue Service and the State of New York granted the CGBD provisional tax-free status [501(c)(3)] as a public charity four months later in December of 1987. The designation was temporary until 1992 when the CGBD received permanent status.

At the close of 1995, the Consultative Group membership was composed of 40 organizations: 39 foundations and US AID. Its budget for the year was \$333,350. The initial, unaudited figures indicate that the CGBD operated slightly under budget in FY95 (please see attached budget).

The CGBD secretariat is based in the offices of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (New York) where it has been located since its inception. When the year began, the staff consisted of three full-time professionals: Catherine J. Porter (Executive Director), Brad Auer (Program Associate) and E. Emerson Chase (Administrative Assistant). In mid-February, Jessica Robinson was hired as Program Assistant, replacing E. Emerson Chase. In June, Brad Auer was promoted to Program Officer.

The CGBD is funded by program grants from its members; it is not a grantmaking organization. A Board of Directors serves as the governing body. The Board of Directors at the beginning of 1995 was composed of representatives from seven member foundations. The Directors, officers and their affiliations are listed in the appendices.

II. Goals and Program Focus

I.To create partnerships among funders in order to address strategically the challenges of accelerated biological degradation and the increasing threat to global biodiversity.

II.To improve the quality of grantmaking by connecting member foundations with significant opportunities worldwide and with respected scientific resources.

III.To increase the quantity of grantmaking in support of efforts to conserve biological diversity.

IV.To identify gaps in current funding patterns and bring them to the attention of foundations which are active in biodiversity programming.

V.To target priority subjects and geographic regions for funding organizations.

VI.To broaden the public constituency for biodiversity conservation.

In 1990, the CGBD's original focus on tropical biodiversity conservation was augmented by the inclusion of a domestic component - based on the interests of many foundations in the CGBD's growing membership, and on a broad understanding that legitimacy of our case abroad largely depends on a demonstrable commitment to biodiversity conservation within the United

States and Canada. Program activities of 1995 reflect this combined commitment to international and domestic projects.

In June 1993, the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD) expanded its experiment in consultative grantmaking, organizing five working groups in an effort to focus attention more effectively on selected topics. The working groups continue to explore the process of *strategic grantmaking*, including serious discussion of the ways individual foundation grants can leverage or be enhanced by grants from other foundations.

This process continued to be refined in 1995. Working groups proved flexible enough to encompass the variety of agendas that members brought to them. And because these agendas are member inspired and driven - so that much of the work is done by grantmakers for grantmakers - the secretariat has been able to devote more time and energy to examine issues and develop strategies outside of the working group foci.

III. Working Group Activities

The CGBD program for 1995 built upon much of the previous year's program, as approved by CGBD members at the 1994 Annual Meeting, and again at the 1995 Annual Meeting. Topical working groups continued their collaboration in the areas of *Marine Conservation*, *Forests*, *Systemic Contaminants*, and *Biodiversity Education & Awareness (The Biodiversity Project)*.

BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Throughout the first half of 1995, CGBD staff and members worked to build consensus on the goals and structure of its Biodiversity Education Project. Several members funded focus groups in six communities across the nation, testing basic awareness of biodiversity concepts as well as public sentiment about the environment and the economy. Complementing previous and concurrent public opinion research by others, the findings from this research prodded members to make funding commitments to the Project. The CGBD succeeded in raising \$186,000 for this separate and discrete initiative, now named simply The Biodiversity Project, from eight foundations. Jane Elder was hired in August as Project Director. Cindy Coffin came on as Project Assistant in November. Several briefings were conducted in late 1995 to share the findings of the public opinion research and to engage a broader NGO community in the process and planning of this multi-year effort. By the end of the year, The Biodiversity Project was well underway, producing its own reports to funders on its activities while maintaining close links with the communications of the CGBD secretariat.

SYSTEMIC CONTAMINANTS

Approved by the Board in December of 1994, this working group found shape and substance early on. Building organizationally on lessons learned from other CGBD working groups (notably the Marines), the group met frequently by conference call, grew from eight to fourteen members, and convened face-to-face three times in 1995. The working group's first collaborative project was the funding of the Luoma Report, an overview of the issue of endocrine disrupters specifically designed to inform grantmakers. The report was funded by six working group members and distributed to all CGBD members, and others who requested it. Responding to the need for up-to-date information in this quickly developing field, the W. Alton Jones Foundation began a clipping service of relevant news coverage which it compiles and distributes to working group members and others.

At their first face-to-face meeting in July, working group members decided to engage in a broad array of activities, with each member selecting pieces of a larger puzzle to suit their program interests. For example, several members are focussed specifically on the emerging concern about endocrine disruption, while others examine children's environmental health and persistent toxins in other contexts. The Working group met again at the EGA Retreat in October, and then convened a full-day session on December 19 at the Pew Charitable Trusts. At this latter meeting, consultants hired by two member foundations provided their reports and recommendations to the group at large. Members and guest NGOs discussed these findings, and the release of the book *Our Stolen Future*, which they had received in galley form. The tenor and pace of the discussion indicate this is a working group that will take its work forward just as rapidly in 1996.

MARINE CONSERVATION

The Marine Conservation working group, with twelve CGBD and three other members, engaged in a myriad of program activities in 1995. Fisheries were a major area of interest, with all-day briefings on fisheries management systems and Pacific fisheries. A briefing on aquaculture brought together over 30 participants for a meeting that greatly enhanced the visibility of environmental concerns about this growing industry. Continuing the group's tradition of basic information-sharing on emerging issues and funding opportunities, 20+ conference calls of the marine working group and its subgroups were convened. The most significant event of the year was a full-day meeting in late October where the group reviewed collaborative projects from past years and outlined a strategy for 1996. The outcome of this meeting was an agreement to focus on regional fisheries, estuaries, and marine protected areas, with each topic now being explored in detail. The group will also continue to pay attention to other issues, however, including coral reefs and aquaculture.

FORESTS

The Forests working group devolved in 1995 to a less formal structure, but one which still encompassed several independent though related activities. Seven CGBD members jointly supported a two-week workshop on ecosystem management organized by the U.S. Forest Service. These funders, and several other interested CGBD members, were involved throughout much of the year in the planning process for this event. Numerous conference calls, participation in the federal inter-agency steering committee for the workshop, and a meeting with Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, have kept this group engaged in the substance of this effort and have laid the groundwork for a variety of follow-up activities. Another group of CGBD members met several times during the year to consider strategies to support non-governmental organizations in the development of the sustainable wood products industry in North America. This group is working with forest owners, the wood processing industry, timber certification organizations, wood products buyers and others to strengthen the industry and potentially develop a model for similar efforts overseas.

IV. Other Program Activities

RESTORATION ECOLOGY

The CGBD interest in restoration ecology began with a conversation among several funders in the summer of 1995. Conference calls uncovered other CGBD members' interest, and led to an exchange of working definitions and papers on restoration ecology, capped by a meeting of funders in Chicago on December 15. Although no specific follow-up was identified, it seemed clear that members will continue to consult on grants that support restoration efforts.

WESTERN WATER

CGBD members and other foundations met on July 13 in San Francisco to assess the progress made after a series of three meetings on this issue in 1994. They heard presentations on federal policy affecting western water from Tom Jensen of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and they examined the history of foundation involvement in the San Francisco Bay/Delta. Foundation participants also shared their program interests with colleagues and identified areas for mutual activity in the coming year.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

A series of conference calls and face-to-face meetings were convened by the CGBD during the summer and early fall to discuss endangered species issues. Reacting to the intense threats to the Endangered Species Act in the policy arena, a large number of member foundations cooperated with environmental groups in formulating new strategies and institutions to protect endangered species in the United States.

CLEAN WATER POLICY

Responding to interest among members of the marine working group in the connections between clean water policy and coastal resource preservation, the CGBD convened three conference calls in the late autumn. These calls, which included funders and environmental advocates working on clean water issues, examined federal clean water policy with a particular focus on estuaries and wetlands.

1995 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1995 CGBD Annual Meeting was held in Nantucket, Massachusetts at the Wade Cottages, June 5-7. Nearly 30 CGBD members attended, informed by a dozen outside experts. Paul Gorman (National Religious Partnership for the Environment), in a keynote address, spoke about reconnecting the environmental and religious communities. Sessions on Northeast Forests and Northeast Fisheries took a regional northeast focus, while the Biodiversity Project update addressed national attitudes on biodiversity as gleaned from ongoing focus groups. Phil Clapp of the Environmental Information Center gave an update on environmental policy. The meeting also included the annual session to endorse CGBD program activities in the coming year.

FALL MEMBERS MEETING

Because members now meet regularly on other program matters, the CGBD reduced its activities at the October 11-14, 1995 Environmental Grantmakers Association Fall Retreat from the level of past years. The principle program activities were a board meeting, open to all members, and a briefing on the recently established Biodiversity Project. Smaller groups of funders also met during several working meals to discuss systemic contaminants, marine conservation, ecosystem management, forests, and endangered species.

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The CGBD secretariat regularly distributes several publications to its membership to keep them apprised of CGBD activities and informed about emerging issues. These publications include BIODIVERSITY, a quarterly newsletter, which is also distributed to a wide audience outside of the CGBD and funding community. The secretariat faxes monthly updates to its membership, for quick reference on recent and upcoming CGBD activities. Summary notes from most CGBD meetings and conference calls are also distributed to the entire membership. Copies of the newsletter, monthly updates, and meeting notes are available for review. Finally, the CGBD has a brochure and other background information available for distribution. The brochure includes a member list, organizational goals and a list of current program areas.

V. Looking Ahead to 1996

The Consultative Group on Biological Diversity will continue the work of recent years in much the same fashion, as members continue to express satisfaction with this approach. Activities will focus on monitoring issues of biodiversity in general; identifying emerging issues and projects, and providing briefings for members; and developing grantmaking strategies on selected areas within our working groups.

- Now that our Biodiversity Project is fully fledged, the CGBD secretariat will provide it limited staff support, shared communications strategies, and some common services to funders, like regular updates in our communications, although the Project has communications mechanisms of its own. The CGBD will also be served by the Biodiversity Project. By attending regional meetings sponsored by the Project, which will involve over 200 NGO participants, foundation members and CGBD staff will learn the extent of regional activity as well as ways to communicate effectively about biodiversity conservation.
- The CGBD Marines working group will continue to develop strategies on the three issue areas it identified for collaborative work late in 1995: marine protected areas, regional fisheries and estuaries.
- The CGBD will continue to develop strategies within the Systemic Contaminants working group, and anticipates increased attention to this issue with the March release of a book about endocrine disrupters (Our Stolen Future) and with renewed political attention to the Right-to-Know (about public exposure to toxins) anticipated in the 1996 election debates. Members will work on both short- and long-term approaches to this issue, and the threats to biodiversity and human health.
- The CGBD will work to restructure its Forests working group to be responsive to the evolving work of funders in this area.
- We intend to renew our emphasis on the international components of biodiversity conservation, in existing working groups and in specific sub-groups that address the interests of international grantmakers.
- On February 26, 1996, the CGBD Board of Directors unanimously approved a re-siting of the CGBD to west coast offices in San Francisco, inside the Tides Foundation at the Presidio. Although the move will not alter any programmatic activity of the CGBD nor the siting of meetings to

accommodate the greatest participation, it will allow staff to develop stronger relationships with west coast members. The move will also allow for a substantial reduction in overhead costs.

- The CGBD 1996 Annual Meeting will be held in the Pacific Northwest and will focus on regional issues, as well as conservation-based development as an approach to biodiversity conservation.

APPENDICES

1995 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Jenifer Altman Foundation
 Brainerd Foundation¹
 Bullitt Foundation
 C.S. Fund
 Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust
 Compton Foundation
 Conservation, Food & Health Foundation
 Nathan Cummings Foundation
 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
 Ford Foundation
 George Gund Foundation
 Vira I. Heinz Endowment
 Homeland Foundation
 Island Foundation
 Richard Ivey Foundation
 W. Alton Jones Foundation
 Henry P. Kendall Foundation²
 John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
 Merck Family Fund
 John Merck Fund
 Moriah Fund
 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
 Ruth Mott Fund
 Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
 New England Biolabs Foundation
 David & Lucile Packard Foundation
 Pew Charitable Trusts
 Rockefeller Financial Services
 Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 Rockefeller Family Fund
 Rockefeller Foundation
 Sacharuna Foundation
 Surdna Foundation
 Tides Foundation
 Emily Hall Tremain Foundation³
 Turner Foundation
 U.S. Agency for International Development
 Wallace Genetic Foundation
 Weeden Foundation
 Winslow Foundation

¹ Joined July 25, 1995

² Joined April 4, 1995

³ Joined July 17, 1995

1995 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan M. Martin¹ *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
 Foundation*

Andrew McElwaine² *Vira I. Heinz Endowment*

J.P. Myers *W. Alton Jones Foundation*

Michael Northrop *Rockefeller Brothers Fund*

Charles Savitt *Tides Foundation*

Benjamin Shute *Rockefeller Brothers Fund*

Maureen Smyth *Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*

Deborah Tuck *Ruth Mott Fund*

Jack Vanderryn *Moriah Fund*

Tom Wathen³ *Pew Charitable Trusts*

¹ Resigned June 5

² Elected June 5

³ Elected June 5

1995 CORPORATE OFFICERS

J.P. Myers¹ *President*

Dan Martin² *President*

Maureen Smyth *Vice President*

Michael Northrop *Secretary & Treasurer*

Charles Savitt³ *Treasurer*

Benjamin Shute *Assistant Treasurer*

Catherine J. Porter *Executive Director*

¹ Elected June 5

² Resigned June 5

³ Resigned June 5

1995 SECRETARIAT STAFF

Catherine J. Porter *Executive Director*

Brad H. Auer *Program Officer*

E. Emerson Chase¹ *Program Assistant*

Jessica E. Robinson² *Program Assistant*

¹ Resigned February, 1995

² Hired February, 1995

1995 MEETINGS OF THE CGBD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 2, 1995 **Island Press (Washington D.C.)**

June 5, 1995 **Wade Cottages (Nantucket, MA)**

October 11, 1995 **Sugarloaf Resort (Cedar, MI)**

1995 CGBD BRIEFINGS AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Minutes are available, on request, for these events.

JANUARY

Biodiversity Awareness (conference call) January 6
Marines (conference call) January 13
Endangered Species (conference call) January 17
Ecosystem Management (conference call) January 19
Biodiversity Awareness (conference call) January 24
Limited Access Management of Fisheries Briefing (New York) January 27

FEBRUARY

Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) February 3
Biodiversity Education & Awareness NGO Meeting (Washington, DC) February 6
Biodiversity Education & Awareness Meeting for CGBD Members (Washington, DC) February 7
Endangered Species Briefing (Washington, DC) February 8
Annual Meeting Program Committee (conference call) February 22

MARCH

CGBD Board Meeting (Washington, DC) March 2
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) March 6
Marines Working Group (conference call) March 7
Annual Meeting Program Committee (conference call) March 8
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) March 14
Endangered Species (conference call) March 17
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) March 22
Marines Subcommittee on Pacific Fisheries (conference call) March 22

APRIL

Biodiversity Awareness Focus Groups & Great Lakes NGO meeting (Chicago, IL) April 6
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) April 11
Marines Working Group (conference call) April 11
Biodiversity Education Focus Groups (Tacoma, Washington) April 24
Biodiversity Education Focus Groups (Sacramento, California) April 25

MAY

Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) May 5
Focus Groups Final Report and NGO Meeting (Washington, DC) May 8
Marines Working Group (conference call) May 9
Canada Biodiversity Education & Awareness Projects (Toronto) May 25

JUNE

Aquaculture Briefing (Washington, DC) June 2
CGBD Annual Meeting (Nantucket, MA) June 5-7

Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) June 13
Endangered Species (conference call) June 14
Marines Working Group (conference call) June 27
Western Ancient Forest Campaign (conference call) June 28
Endangered Species (conference call) June 28
Ecosystem Management Workshop (conference call) June 29
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) June 29

JULY

U.S. Forest Service Ecosystem Management Workshop (conference call) July 10
Western Water Briefing (San Francisco, CA) July 13
Pacific Marine Ecosystem Briefing (San Francisco, CA) July 14
Marines Subcommittee for Annual Working Group Meeting (conference call) July 18
Systemic Contaminants Working Group Strategy Session (Chicago, IL) July 24-25
Biodiversity Education Project Strategy Meeting (Chicago, IL) July 25
Ecosystem Management Workshop (conference call) July 31

AUGUST

Marines Working Group (conference call) August 1
Focus Groups on Environment and Economy (Bend, OR) August 2
Ecosystem Management Workshop: Meeting with Jack Ward Thomas (Washington, DC) August 4
Endangered Species (conference call) August 14
Ecosystem Management Workshop (conference call) August 16
Endangered Species (conference call) August 21
Biodiversity Project Public Opinion Research Meeting (conference call) August 29
Endangered Species (conference call) August 31

SEPTEMBER

CGBD Siting Committee (conference call) September 5
CGBD Finance Subcommittee (conference call) September 6
Endangered Species (conference call) September 7
Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) September 8
Endangered Species (conference call) September 14
Biodiversity Project Introduction and Focus Groups Findings (Washington, DC) September 19
Endangered Species (conference call) September 21
Restoration Ecology Issue Development (conference call) September 22

OCTOBER

Marines Working Group (conference call) October 5
Ecosystem Management Workshop (conference call) October 5
CGBD Board Meeting (Cedar, MI) October 11
CGBD Biodiversity Project and Focus Group Findings Briefing (Cedar, MI) October 11
Marines Working Group Breakfast Meeting (Cedar, MI) October 12
Systemic Contaminants Working Group Lunch Meeting (Cedar, MI) October 12
Ecosystem Management Workshop Breakfast Meeting (Cedar, MI) October 13
Endangered Species Lunch Meeting (Cedar, MI) October 13
Marines Working Group Annual Meeting (Washington, DC) October 23
Clean Water (conference call) October 31
CGBD Board Discussion of Biodiversity Education Project (conference call) October 31

NOVEMBER

Systemic Contaminants Working Group (conference call) November 15
Marines Working Group (conference call) November 20
Clean Water/Wetlands (conference call) November 30

DECEMBER

Regional Fisheries (conference call) December 1
Clean Water (conference call) December 5
Great Lakes Water Quality Focus Group (conference call) December 12
Estuaries (conference call) December 15
Restoration Ecology Strategy Meeting (Chicago, IL) December 19
Biodiversity Project Discussion of National Poll (conference call) December 21

BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY